

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 24/2278/VRC

Address: North Boundary WallDorchester MewsTwickenham

Proposal: Variation of condition LT04 - Protective Fencing (Other)-Small Fencing of planning permission 23/3057/FUL to revise the Arboricultural Method Statement to reduce and remove all roots within trench fill foundation to secure long-term structural integrity of the boundary wall.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr. Martin Brookes

Address: 22 St Stephens Gardens Twickenham TW1 2LS

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: Objection to "Planning Application 24/2278/VRC"

I strongly object to the request for revision and removal of condition LT04 - Protective Fencing (Other)-Small Fencing of planning permission 23/3057/FUL.

Removing tree roots can cause irreparable damage, causing trees to become stressed, diseased, weaken, and die.

There are well-established and routinely employed construction techniques that should be used in building the foundation for this boundary wall. These techniques, such as root bridging, protect existing roots to protect the health and longevity of trees. The applicant, St. George, is a large developer and will be familiar with these routine tree root protection methods.

The applicant must be required to adhere to LBRUT's original conditions for planning approval which required the applicant to conduct their construction in accordance with British arboricultural standards. The applicant was aware of, and agreed to, the required planning conditions when they embarked on the wall build and those requirements should not now be set aside for St. George's convenience and financial benefit

All the trees for which St. George seeks the removal of protective requirements, including those at the St. Stephens Gardens homes that are specifically called out in the applicant's request, are located within a Conservation Area and are protected by the same standards as trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

Trees protect the environment and provide numerous other benefits. The potential loss of these trees would vastly impact the aesthetics of this Conservation Area as many of these trees are visible from multiple houses and other properties, as well as from the streets around, and they are part of the history and ambiance of this green, attractive, and scenic part of St. Margarets village.

Loss of trees, especially mature trees, is financially damaging to owners of the property on which the trees are growing as well as to owners of nearby properties. Furthermore, tree root removal and compromised tree health exposes St. Stephens Gardens owners to the risk of substantial costs for treatment of arboreal disease and removal of large dead trees.

Communications from the Dorchester Mews consortium frequently negatively comment on "tree fouling" caused by trees in St. Stephens Gardens. This language suggests that the Dorchester Mews consortium dislikes the leaves and other natural features of these trees in spite of their positive impact on the environment.